

Regular Meeting

of the

Board of Finance

April 22, 2014

Present: George McCoy, Ronald Cabana, David Richardson, Michael Dougherty, Fred Chmura, Wayne Durst, Mark Shamber, Glen Lessig and David Hosmer.

Guests: Treasurer Donna Stefanik, Clerk Christine French, First Selectmen Allan Walker, Mary Jane Dougherty, Karen Munroe, WES Principal Viktor Toth, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Baran, Chairman of the Board of Education Michael Bernardi, Ernest St. Jean and Kevin Withers.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Michael Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Approve Minutes from March 25, 2014, April 01, 2014 Special Meeting & April 8, 2014: George McCoy, seconded by Ronald Cabana motion to accept the minutes with the following corrections:

At the April 1, 2014 meeting George McCoy was **not** nominated for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Board of Finance.

Also at the April 1, 2014 meeting, under Citizens Comments David **Hosmer**, not David Richardson pointed out that repairing bridges were very expensive.

Again under Citizens Comments for the April 1, 2014 meeting Glen Lessig wanted to clear up the point that he felt that it was important for the Board of Finance to have a set of by-laws, and that this idea was not brought up because board members wanted to express their views in newspapers.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Accept Final Budgets for Town Meeting: George McCoy, seconded by Glen Lessig made a motion to take the budgets as presented to Town Meeting.

David Richardson asked Dr. Baran about the Special Education secretary's position. Dr. Baran explained that the job will be split between two regular secretarial positions, one at the

Middle School and one at the Elementary School. The Special Education budget will be charged for these services.

David Richardson asked how many teacher assistants would be laid off. Dr. Baran explained that 8 teacher assistants would be laid off. The decision on which teacher assistants were going to be maintained was based on seniority. This would not result in a decrease in the Special Education budget because the teacher assistants who would be retained are paid at a higher rate.

There was a decrease in the transportation budget of \$2300.00. The sports program will go to a pay-to-play system. The fees that will be charged to play will cover the costs of transportation, coaches and referees.

Being no further discussion, Chairman Dougherty requested a vote on the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Accept Capital Plans for Town Meeting: George McCoy, seconded by Fred Chmura moved to accept the General Government and the Board of Education's Capital Plan as presented.

David Richardson and George McCoy feel that the maintenance of the schools should be included in the General Government's budget and not the Board of Education's budget. George McCoy felt that the Board of Education should focus solely on educating the children and not on building maintenance.

Michael Dougherty reminded the board members that the Capital Plan was a wish list that was required by the State of Connecticut. This did not mean that every project on the list would be accomplished during the year that it was hopefully scheduled to be done or that it would be done at all. The projects had to be listed on the Capital Plan if the Town or the Board of Education hoped to get aid from the State to accomplish these projects.

Being no further discussion Michael Dougherty called for a vote on the question.

Motion passed.

Fred Chmura, seconded by George McCoy, made a motion to set up a feasibility committee consisting of the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Education and the School Facilities Committee to study the possibility of the Town taking over the maintenance of the schools and the grounds from the Board of Education. After a brief discussion Fred Chmura, seconded by George McCoy, amended the motion to have the feasibility committee report back to the Board of Finance by January, 2015. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Discussion & Status of Auditor Selection: David Richardson reported to the Board on his research into the four auditing firms that submitted bids. He spoke to the State Comptroller, and the towns of Ansonia and Eastford in regards to the lowest bidder, Michaud, Accavallo, Woodbridge & Cusano, LLC. Both the towns of Ansonia and Eastford were favorable in their assessments of Michaud, Accavallo, Woodbridge & Cusano, LLC.

After some discussion it was decided that as many members of the subcommittee, as well as Treasurer Donna Stefanik and a representative from the schools meet with the firms of Michaud, Accavallo, Woodbridge and Cusano, LLC, and Mahoney Sabol & Company. The subcommittee will report back to the full Board of Finance with their recommendation at the May 20, 2014 Regular Meeting. If need be, a Special Meeting can also be called to discuss this matter.

6. Correspondence & Announcements: Michael Dougherty reminded the members of the Board of Finance and the audience that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 13, 2014, and the Referendum will be on May 20, 2014.

Mr. Dougherty reminded members of the board that if they wish to place letters to the editor in local newspapers to please identify themselves as members of the Board of Finance and to put a disclaimer in stating that the opinion expressed in the letter is not the opinion of the Board of Finance.

David Richardson also stated that between the Annual Town Meeting and the Referendum that there should be no letters from board members printed in local newspapers. This would be a violation of SEEC rules.

George McCoy announced that he was thinking of changing his party affiliation from Republican to Unaffiliated. He wanted to know how and if this would affect his seat on the board. Treasurer Donna Stefanik stated that he should check with the Town Clerk in regard to this.

7. Citizens Participation: None.

8. Adjournment: George McCoy, seconded by Glen Lessig, motioned to adjourn at 7:38pm.
Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine G. French

Clerk